(b) if so. what are the details in this regard and reasons for not utilizing the same; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for its utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Out of 4.31 lakh hectare of total land holding, railway has about 44,894 hectare of vacant land. Information regarding cinema halls on railway land is being obtained from the Zonal Railways.

(b) and (c) Zone-wise details of vacant railway land is as follows:-

Railway	Vacant land (in hectares)
North Central	738
Western	7383
North Eastern	5923
South Western	2871
Central	2478
East Coast	1355
Northern	2919
North-East Frontier	2435
Southern	2297
South Central	4248
South Eastern	84
West Central	488
North Eastern	5923
East Central	5773
Eastern	1547
South-East Central	3391

The vacant land is required by the Railways for its future development works. However, till such time, the land is required by Railways for its own operational use, the same is put to various short term uses like commercial licensing, plantation, Grow More Food Scheme, etc. In addition, where potential exists, it is proposed to undertake commercial development of land through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA).

Leasing of railway hotels

116. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is setting up special purpose vehicle to help its budget hotels; and

(b) whether his Ministry is planning to lease the railway hotels to private parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRl R.VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to meet the requirement of the passengers, this Ministry has decided to setup 100 Budget Hotels over Indian Railways through Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on public private partnership following open tender and competitive bidding system.

Waiting rooms and retiring rooms at stations

117. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are about six to seven lakh commuters travelling daily from Virar, Nallasopara, Vasai, Naigaon, Bhayender and Mira Road, but there is no provision for the waiting rooms and retiring rooms;

(b) whether requests made by the people of the area to set up retiring rooms has not, so far, been considered and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the railway is considering of making such retiring rooms, and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRl R. VELU): (a) to (c) Virar, Nallasopara, Vasai Road, Naigaon, Bhayandar and Mira Road are 'C Category (Suburban) Stations where as a matter of policy, waiting rooms and retiring rooms are not provided. However, waiting room facility has been provided at Vasai Road station where a large number of long distance Mail/Express trains also stop.

Incidents of looting in trains

118. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large number of incidents of looting of the belongings of the passengers in trains after getting them senseless by offering eatables;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an organized gang of these types of looters is operating particularly in the trains from Delhi to Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam; and

(c) if so, what action his Ministry is taking to stop such organized crimes in which poor labourers are looted and are relieved of their earned money and belongings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. 135 incidents of drugging were reported during the year 2007 (upto 31st July).

(b) Yes, Sir. Some gangs of looters are operating in the East bound trains running towards Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam.

(c) Law and order being a State subject, control of crime on Railways is the responsibility of State Police. State Police has, a specialized wing to register and investigate such cases, which is known as Government Railway Police (GRP). However, to supplement efforts of GRP in controlling crime on Railways, Railway